

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 EA-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

USIA-12 IO-12 AID-20 /135 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/ NE: EWFLEISHER: SMW

5/10/73 29451

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R 112007 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OSLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 090270

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NO; VN; VS; LA; UR; XG

SUBJECT: TOUR D' HORIZON WITH NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR

IN MEETING REQUESTED BY NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR GUNNENG, UNDER
SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

INDOCHINA. WE ARE STILL SPENDING A GREAT DEAL OF TIME ON
INDOCHINA ALTHOUGH CONDITIONS HAVE IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY AND
FIGHTING HAS BEEN VERY MUCH REDUCED. IN VIET- NAM WE HOPE
THAT THE INTER- VIETNAMESE POLITICAL TALKS WILL GET DOWN TO
BUSINESS. THE PRG DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT
ELECTIONS, PROBABLY BECAUSE OF DOUBT OVER LIKELY OUTCOME.

IN LAOS THE AGREEMENT TO FORM A GOVERNMENT INCLUDING
ALL ELEMENTS, AFTER WHICH OUTSIDE FORCES WOULD LEAVE WITH-
IN SIXTY DAYS, HAS NOT YET BEEN POSSIBLE. NORTH VIET- NAM'S
RELUCTANCE TO LEAVE LAOS APPEARS TO BE THE LARGEST STUMBL-
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ING BLOCK.

IN CAMBODIA THE GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE WELL ARMED BUT NEED FIRMER DIRECTION. THE KEY TO THE PROBLEM IS THE PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE, WHO ARE WARRIORS FUNCTIONING IN A COMMUNIST SYSTEM THAT IMPOSES A HARD DISCIPLINE THEY ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT. THE SOVIETS MAY BE CHANGING THEIR ATTITUDE SOMEWHAT TOWARD THE LON NOL

GOVERNMENT. THE CHINESE, WHILE SUPPORTING SIHANOUK, WOULD PROBABLY BE GLAD TO SEE A PERIOD OF RELATIVE PEACE BASED ON SOME SORT OF COMPROMISE.

BREZHNEV VISIT. WHILE WE DO NOT HAVE ANY DETAILS YET, THE VISIT HAS BEEN ENVISAGED FOR SOME TIME AND IS THE NATURAL RESULT OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO MOSCOW. WE HAVE MANY ISSUES THAT WE FEEL SHOULD BE REVIEWED FROM TIME TO TIME. THESE INCLUDE PROBLEMS RELATED TO SALT, MBFR AND CSCE AS WELL AS OTHER MATTERS. WE HAVE CONTINUING WORRIES OVER THE MIDDLE EAST AND WE HAVE BILATERAL PROBLEMS TO DISCUSS WITH THE SOVIETS.

YEAR OF EUROPE. THIS WILL BE A BUSY YEAR IN WHICH THE PRESIDENT HOPES TO GO TO EUROPE IN THE FALL. WE HAVE NO FIXED IDEAS ABOUT OUR FUTURE RELATIONSHIP WITH EUROPE AND WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH OUR FRIENDS. WE HOPE THAT FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS LIKE NORWAY WILL FREELY EXPRESS THEIR IDEAS. THIS WILL BE A PERIOD OF INTENSE EXCHANGE AND THOUGHT IN WHICH JAPAN WILL PARTICIPATE.

STILL LARGELY UNKNOWN IS THE FUTURE COURSE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH CHINA. PEACE IN INDOCHINA WILL HAVE A BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON ALL OUR RELATIONS. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE090270
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EWFLEISHER: SMW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: N/A N/A
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730543/aaaajcfd.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EU
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <02-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980209
Subject: TOUR D' HORIZON WITH NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR
TAGS: PFOR, LA, NO, UR, US, VN, VS, XG, PFOR
To: OSLO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005